

The

# Chimes

Newsletter of

**The Congregational Church of Hollis (UCC)**  
3 Monument Square Hollis, NH 03049

January 2024

www.HollisChurch.org

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September to May. One edition is  
published for the summer months.  
All submissions for the newsletter  
are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month  
preceding publication.

*God spoke:*

*“Let us make human beings in our image, make them  
reflecting our nature,  
So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,  
the birds in the air, the cattle,  
And, yes, Earth itself,  
and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”  
God created human beings;  
he created them godlike,  
Reflecting God’s nature.*

(Genesis 1:26-27, The Message)

Dear Friends,

As you reflect on 2023, would you say you spent more time doing things driven by a sense that you “should”...or by curiosity and/or enthusiasm? By a sense of compulsion...or, of creativity?

For most of my adult life, I’ve not thought of myself as a very creative person — mostly because I didn’t get my best grades in junior high art class. And because I somehow internalized the idea (maybe at that same moment) that — while I’ve always appreciated art and creative people — for me, spending time creating artistic things was not a good use of my time.

But according to Genesis, like you, **I was created in the image of the Creator: therefore, I am creative by definition!** It’s just a matter of how willing I am to value, or even enjoy, my own creativity and playfulness.

It’s hard to miss how many wonderfully creative people we have in this congregation, in every possible way. I have marveled variously at different individuals’ creative abilities with pencils and paintbrushes, and others’ with fabrics, fibers, and needles; some are so inventive with foods and flavors; others create deliciously with words, with expressions of meaning, or ways of moving; still others have employed tools and instruments to enhance the beauty of moments or the functionality of spaces we inhabit, whether audibly or visibly.



*(continued on page 4)*

# From the Faith Formation Office



## HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	if	and	creation			

- The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The last Monday \_ \_
- The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- One day before the 20th \_ \_
- The day before the first Friday \_ \_
- The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The day after the 20th \_ \_
- The day after 18th \_ \_
- The first day of the second weekend \_
- The last Sunday \_ \_ \_
- The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

## News from *The Flock...*



### Blessing Bag Donations:

The Flock will be collecting items for Blessing Bags for Nashua Soup Kitchen in January. We will be looking for **travel size items: shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.**

*All items are due by February 11* and can be left in the CE bin outside the front doors of the church or dropped off in Flagg Room on Sundays. The children love this project and are looking forward to putting them together again.



## January

### Flock Pizza Night:

Join Kim and Tanya on **Wednesday, January 10** for **Flock Family Pizza Night** from 5:15-6:30pm. We will start with a lesson, have pizza and make mosaics as a family to bring home. Watch for emails for the Signup Genius link. We hope to see you there!



## CE is Hosting Fellowship:









For the month of January, Christian Education will be hosting Fellowship Hour! All goodies can be dropped off in Hardy Hall prior to the service. A Signup Genius has been created for the Flock. If you didn't receive the email, please let Kim B know :) CE@hollischurch.org

*Thank you for your contributions!!*

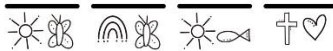
# More Fun ... Just for Kids!

# Puzzle!

Use the grid to discover what James 5:13-18 advises when challenges loom.

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y
					

P



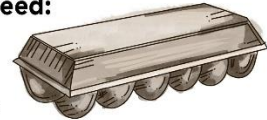
Answers: Pray in faith. Pray for each other. Pray earnestly.



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

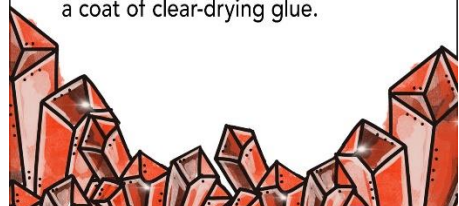
### What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



### What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



(From the Pastor – cont from p. 1)

Though our aesthetics may differ, we are all beautifully and wonderfully made — and beautiful and wonderful makers! And at the start of 2024, we're going to celebrate that a bit. If you have any creative gifts you'd like to share (however amateurish you may think they are), please get in touch with me ([pastor@hollischurch.org](mailto:pastor@hollischurch.org)) — I'd like for anyone who wishes to contribute, to feel "Drawn In".

During this series, we'll connect with our inherent creativity and nurture this fundamental aspect of being human — and hopefully, renew our energy in this New Year for passionate work, delightful play, and creative problem solving.

Happy New Year, dear friends and faith family — may we all know the blessing of God's creativity in our lives, and may we all bless the world with creativity of our own!

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

*Tanya*

## Do you Know...



### Pastoral Relations

is a small deacon-appointed group of church members whose primary role is to serve as a liaison between the Pastor and the Congregation. The inverse is also true: to function as a liaison between the Congregation and the Pastor, especially when/if sensitive issues need to be addressed.

Pastoral Relations is designed to provide support to the Pastor to enable them to flourish and successfully execute their pastoral role within the church body. The team works closely with the Pastor and the Congregation to facilitate effective two-way communication.

The current Pastoral Relations team is Paul Edmunds, Peg Gilmour, Beth Harper and Sarah May. Please feel free to contact them at [PastoralRelations@HollisChurch.org](mailto:PastoralRelations@HollisChurch.org).

## From your Stewardship Board

Your Stewardship Board would like to thank the 68 households who have already made a financial pledge for this New Year! Last year we were grateful to receive 87 pledges — and we hope to match or exceed that number for Fiscal Year 2024.

**The total amount pledged so far is a generous \$230,000.** But we are still a fair distance from what we need and hope to receive in order to fully fund our 2024 budget. **The projected pledged giving needed for 2024 is about \$285,000.**

Trustees are still crunching and paring away at the numbers, trying to create a responsible budget that doesn't exceed the numbers they've been told we collectively can count on. *But imagine what we could do if we were able to reach \$295,000* in pledged funds from a total of 95 pledging units before Annual Meeting (Feb. 11): the programs we're working hard to grow could receive the full budget they requested (many have had to be cut so far), gain greater traction, and blossom more fully with that additional investment from you!

Please keep in mind that, if you make a pledge that helps you to stretch and grow your faith, but discover that your life circumstances unexpectedly change, God and this church *will* understand. We have never held someone to a commitment they simply could not keep, nor do we want anyone who is endeavoring to grow in their expression of grace and gratitude to feel ashamed if life serves up a curve-ball.

**Remember because of YOU and the ways you give, our church changes lives.**

**Thank you so much** for being a part of such important, divine work!

Sincerely,  
Your Stewardship Board

Chris Hyde      Allison D'Ambrosio  
Beth Harper      Dee Wagner

**If you still need to make your pledge, use the QR code or pick up a pledge card outside the church office.**





# January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Don't Miss This!</i> <b>Flock Family Pizza Night</b> Wednesday, Jan 10</p> 	<p><i>Happy New Year!</i> Church Office hours limited this week. Call before stopping in! 603-465-7797</p>	6:30 pm – Music Board meeting	10am – Zoom Coffee Hour	7 pm – Choir	<b>Annual Reports submission deadline</b>	 Epiphany
<p>9:30 am – Communion Worship (In Person and Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock</p>	<p>6:15 pm – CE Board zoom meeting 7 pm – Deacons meeting</p>	7 pm – Mission & Action Board meeting	<p>10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 12pm – Facilities meeting 5:15pm – <b>Flock Family Pizza Night</b></p>	<p>10am – Staff meeting 6 pm – Caring Connections 7 pm – Choir</p>		
<p>9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock</p>	<p>5:30 pm – Trustees meeting  February <i>Chimes</i> deadline</p>	10 am – Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting	<p>10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 6:30 pm – Stewardship Board meeting</p>	7 pm - Choir		
<p>9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock 11am – Fall Prevention Workshop</p>			<p>10am – Zoom Coffee Hour 7 pm – Church Council meeting</p>	7 pm - Choir		
<p>9:30 am Worship (In Person/Livestream) 9:30 am – The Flock</p>	 9 am – 2 pm		10am – Zoom Coffee Hour	 <b>Coat Drive</b>	<p>Mission Item of the Month: <b>Winter Coats and Jackets</b> <i>(Freshly Washed and Gently Used)</i></p>	

## No 2024 Flower Calendar?!

As our worship ways have evolved over the past several years, there have been few people interested in providing flowers for our worship services. New in 2024 — no flower calendar for signing up will be posted, *but you can still provide flowers for Sunday worship!* Just follow these simple steps:

1. By the Tuesday prior to your chosen Sunday — Call the church office (465-7797) or email Jessica ([admin@hollischurch.org](mailto:admin@hollischurch.org)) with the date you'll provide flowers and your bulletin dedication. Typical dedication format: "The flowers this morning are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of / in honor of / in celebration of \_\_\_\_\_ by (your name)."  
2. Arrange for the flowers — either bring them yourself by 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning *or* call Wendy Longland (465-3466) at least one week prior to your chosen Sunday to finalize flowers and payment options.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has made hats and scarves to help spread warmth during the cold winter months. Twenty individual hats have been donated to Upper Elementary School in Hollis, while 11 matching sets of hats and scarves have gone to the Soup Kitchen, in Nashua.



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets in Emerson Chapel at 10:00am on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (no meeting on January 2!). If you're interested in joining us, or have any questions, please contact Patricia Cordell at [patricia.cordell27@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.cordell27@gmail.com).

Many members of our congregation are unable to attend daytime meetings in person, but we would love to have anyone who prefers to knit at home join our ministry, too!

## Coming in February...

### Mark your calendar for Annual Meeting

Join us for our Annual Meeting after worship on **Sunday, February 11**, where we will:

- Accept the reports of our officers, boards, committees, and organizations connected with the Church.
- Elect all officers, board members, and committee members for the upcoming year.
- Vote to accept and adopt the budget as recommended by the Trustees and Church Council.
- Consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

***Come! Be part of the decision-making for 2024!***

## Prepared to Serve: An Event for All of God's People

### *What IS Prepared to Serve?*

It's a day-long event for all church members in the New Hampshire Conference, UCC (that's us!) with fellowship, inspiring worship, and educational, faith-building workshops and exhibits.



### *Where and When?*

Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH  
Saturday, February 24, 2024

The theme of this year's Prepared to Serve event is "**Creating New Tables**" and builds upon the UCC Annual Meeting theme "Turning the Tables" (see Matthew 21:12-16). The goal of this year's *Prepared to Serve* event is to provide each congregation with the tools and take-home resources to act on the Annual Meeting's charge to overturn tables and Create New Tables.

Workshops are offered on a variety of topics, including faith formation, church leadership, church finances, stewardship, global missions and wider church relations. A full listing and description of the *Prepared to Serve* workshops will soon be available on the New Hampshire Conference website [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org). Join us for a day of growth, transformation and empowerment!

## Mission & Action News

### January Items of the Month: Winter Coats & Jackets



#### Coat Drive

The Nashua Soup Kitchen is in need of warm winter coats all season long. Our January collection is for *gently used and freshly washed coats and jackets.*

Please drop off your items in the basket inside the front side entrance.

### January Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held on **Monday, January 29** from 9am until 2pm in Hardy Hall. Please go online to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to book your appointment!

### Upper Room Daily Devotional

*The Upper Room*, a daily devotional booklet, is available to all in regular and large print. Mission & Action encourages you to pick up a copy – in the narthex or in the literature rack outside the office.

### Christmas Eve Fuel and Food Fund

Thank you to all of those who attended the Christmas Eve services and made donations to our **Food and Fuel Fund**. Through the generosity of our members, the Food and Fuel program is able to assist families and individuals with heating fuel and Market Basket gift cards all year long.

If you know of anyone needing this assistance, please contact Lee Harper at

[missionandaction@hollischurch.org](mailto:missionandaction@hollischurch.org)



**Food & Fuel  
Assistance**

### The Christmas Giving Tree was a HUGE Success!

Thank you to the participants who shopped and wrapped gifts for the children residing at the Nashua Children's Home. Your generosity helped bring great joy to the children and to their families! Monetary gifts received were also used to purchase many items from their Amazon Wish List. Thank you again for your caring and personal attention at such a busy time of year!

### M&A Thanks...

A huge thank you goes out to all the bakers in our congregation who gave of their time to provide pies for the Thanksgiving Food Boxes and cookies for the Christmas Food Boxes! This added a delicious and personal touch for the holiday food boxes that was greatly appreciated.



### Our Church Records

#### Wedding

*December 1, 2023*

Emily Elizabeth Mitchell and  
Connor Joseph Canty

### From the Church Office

#### Annual Reports Due...

Annual Reports from Boards and Committees are due Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>! Email reports to [admin@hollischurch.org](mailto:admin@hollischurch.org).

#### Chimes Thanks...

Many thanks go to Nancy Bell, Suu Burton, Patricia Cordell, Brenda Gibson, Freddi Olson, Deb Shipman and Joyce Toli for preparing your December *Chimes* for delivery to your mailbox.



The Congregational Church of Hollis  
(United Church of Christ)  
3 Monument Square  
Hollis NH 03049

Non-Profit Organization  
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Hollis, NH 03049

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## **Fall Prevention Workshop**

**Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am  
in Emerson Chapel**

Are you or a relative concerned about falling?

Would you like to learn more about how to avoid a fall?

Britta Bergeron and Ruth Kabel are both Occupational Therapists who work in home care. They are passionate about preventing falls and would like to share some of their tips for staying safer with our church family. They are hoping you can join them for an informal chat!